

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c). Under the Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) Project being implemented since 1984-85, 2598 secondary/higher secondary schools including 325 Kendriya Vidyalayas have been selected upto 1989-90. No new school has been selected under the project since 1990-91. Each school selected under the project is given five BBC Micro Computers with the object of providing 'hands on' experience to secondary school students and familiarising them with computer technology. An expenditure of Rs. 3834.25 lakhs has been incurred on the project upto 1990-91.

Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti has introduced Computer Literacy Programmes in 73 vidyalayas in the first phase with an estimated cost of Rs. 123 lakhs per annum.

Central assistance under the Scheme of 'Thrust Areas of Technical Education' has been provided to Engineering Colleges/ Technical Institutions for development of computer facilities and computer related activities such as computer scheme/technology, Computer Aided Design/Computer Aided Manufacture (CAD/CAM), Robotics and Artificial Intelligence and Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIM). During the VIIth Plan, 194 projects to the tune of Rs. 25.40 crores were sanctioned by the Government. During 1990-91, 38 projects have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 3.72 crores. Also, a sum of Rs. 7.95 crores was released to 255 Polytechnics for purchase of 'O' level computers during the VIIth Plan.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has provided financial assistance of Rs. 6.83 crores to 790 colleges for development of computer facilities during the VIIth Plan. Depending on availability of resources, the Commission proposes to provide financial assistance to 1000 more colleges during the VIIth Plan. The UGC provides assis-

tance to Universities for acquisition of computers as and when such proposals are received and subjects to availability of funds. It is, therefore, not possible to name the Universities which may avail of assistance during the VIIIth Plan.

Reclamation of Degraded Forest Land

3024. SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a new policy to involve village communities and voluntary agencies for reclamation of degraded forest land; and

(b) if so, the details of the policy and the steps being taken for the implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). The Government of India have issued guidelines to all State Governments that village communities and voluntary agencies should be involved in regeneration of degraded forest lands on sharing of usufruct and final harvest. Based on these guidelines, the states of Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, and Rajasthan have formulated specific scheme for active involvement of people in afforestation programme. Other State Governments have been urged to take similar action.

Afforestation Programme

3025. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have